

In the Claims:

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22.

(Currently Amended) A distal protection device, comprising:

a sheath;

a guidewire having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through the sheath;

a filter coupled to the guidewire; and

a ~~tapered~~ docking member coupled to the guidewire distally of the filter.

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(Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the filter includes a plurality of openings for fluid flow therethrough.

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(Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, further comprising a tapered frame coupled to the filter.

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(Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 24, wherein the frame includes a mouth adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a collapsible profile.

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(Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a rib having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is coupled to the guidewire and the second end is coupled to the mouth.

7/ 27. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 25, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

8/ 28. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is tapered.

9/ 29. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

10/ 30. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

11/ 31. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member further comprises a channel.

12/ 32. (Currently Amended) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 31, wherein at least a portion of the tapered docking member is disposed within the sheath.

13/ 33. (Currently Amended) A distal protection device, comprising:
a sheath;
a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through the sheath;
a filter having a plurality of openings;

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a tapered frame coupled to the filter, the frame including a mouth;
a rib having a first end and a second end;
wherein the first end is coupled to the guidewire and the second end is coupled to
the mouth; and
a tapered docking member coupled to the guidewire.

14 / 34. (Previously Added) A distal protection device, comprising:
a sheath;
a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through the sheath;
a filter having a plurality of openings;
a tapered frame coupled to the filter, the frame including a mouth;
a rib having a first end and a second end;
wherein the first end is coupled to the guidewire and the second end is coupled to
the mouth; and
a tapered member coupled to the guidewire.

15 / 35. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with
claim 34, wherein the mouth is adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a
collapsible profile.

16 / 36. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with
claim 35, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

17 ~~37~~ (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is tapered.

18 ~~38~~ (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

19 ~~39~~ (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

20 ~~40~~ (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member further comprises a channel.

21 ~~41~~ (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 40, wherein a portion of the filter may be disposed within the channel.

22 ~~42~~ (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the docking member is disposed within the sheath.

23 ~~43~~ (Previously Added) A distal protection device, comprising:

a sheath;

a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through at least a portion of the sheath;

a filter slidably connected to the guidewire;

a filter advancing member slidable relative to the guidewire and having a distal end and proximal end, the filter being engaged with the filter advancing member proximal the distal end of the filter engaging member; and

a stop coupled to the guidewire.

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44. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the filter includes mouth adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a collapsible profile.

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45. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 44, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

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46. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 45, wherein the stop is tapered.

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47. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 46, wherein the stop is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

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48. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 47, wherein the stop is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

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49. (Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 48, wherein the stop further comprises a channel.

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(Previously Added) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 49, wherein a portion of the filter may be disposed within the channel.